




Speech By
Hon. Anastacia Palaszczuk

MEMBER FOR INALA

Record of Proceedings, 11 September 2014

MEMBERS' STATEMENTS

Newman Government, Performance

 **Hon. A PALASZCZUK** (Inala—ALP) (Leader of the Opposition) (2.43 pm): I rise today on the second anniversary of one of the darkest days in our state's history. On 11 September 2012 the Treasurer had the opportunity to deliver the conservatives' first budget on behalf of the new government. The Newman government's budget was its first chance in more than a dozen years to set out its vision for Queensland. After many long years in opposition, it could have empowered the Public Service. It could have worked with it to deliver the services that Queenslanders need. But that is not what the LNP chose to do. Instead, it went on a crusade aimed at gutting the Public Service. It took the axe to its own workforce. It lined up Queensland's hardworking public servants and kicked them out the door. Some 14,000 workers were gone in the blink of an eye, and we know since then that there have been thousands more in government owned businesses and the community sector.

That was all done because of the deceit this Premier showed during the election campaign. Do not forget that it was the then candidate for Ashgrove and the now Premier who stood there before everyone and said very clearly that public servants had absolutely nothing to fear. Two years on, the people out there will never, ever forget. When I am travelling across this state I meet those public servants day in, day out who lost their jobs. They will never forget the day that this government took an axe to them—took an axe to their lives, an axe to their jobs. Those opposite can sit here and laugh and shake their heads or bow their heads, but these are real people. These are real people with families and with bills to pay such as mortgages and rents and this callous government chose to ignore them when they could have been working with them to deliver services for this state. But would we expect anything less from this government? Would we expect anything less? Absolutely not!

The day of reckoning is coming. In just over six months time the people of Queensland will have their chance to cast their vote on whether this government has delivered on its promises. I can tell members that there are thousands of workers who have been sacked by this government who will have it firmly in their mind when they go to the ballot box how they are going to vote, and it will not be for this callous, arrogant, out-of-touch Newman government. Queenslanders will not forget. As I move across the multicultural communities as well they are all talking to me about the families who have lost their jobs and the impact that that has had on their communities, not just in Brisbane but right across the regions. Let this be a warning to those opposite. Within just over six months time there is going to be an election and people will finally have their voices heard.